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June 13th.

MR. CASSIN, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Nineteen members present.

June 20th.

MR. CASSIN, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Sixteen members present.

The following papers were presented for publication :

“New species of Mordellidæ.” By C. A. Helmuth, M. D.

“Note on the species of Myodites,” and “Notes on the species of Harpalus, &c.” By John L. LeConte, M. D.

“On a new Genus of Serraninæ.” By Theo. Gill.

The death was announced of Mr. William Parker Foulke, member of the Academy, on the 18th inst.

By resolution, Mr. Aubrey H. Smith was requested to prepare a biographical notice of Mr. Foulke for publication in the Proceedings.

Dr. Leidy directed the attention of the members to some shells, bones, fragments of pottery, &c., which had been recently obtained at Cape Henlopen. He stated that, during the last week, he had accompanied a small party in a steamboat excursion to the Delaware Breakwater. The boat having anchored inside the latter, he went ashore opposite the little town of Lewes and strolled along the beach towards the light-house. About half a mile inland, and about a mile from Lewes, he observed large accumulations of shells. These extended over a space of about half a mile, at the foot of a high sand dune which had encroached upon and partly destroyed a forest of pine and cedar trees. The accumulations of shells consist mainly of those of oysters and clams, many of large size, but most of them small, and generally more or less comminuted, as if by the action of fire. The loose white sand of the piles, when scraped from the surface, exhibited intermingled black pulverulent matter, apparently carbonaceous, and in some places pieces of charcoal. Many fragments of rude pottery were strewed among the shells, being of the sort made by the Indians, and consisting of baked clay with powdered shells. Some of the fragments are coarsely ornamented on the exterior. On scraping the sand and shells at random, a clay smoking-pipe was discovered. The specimen, exhibited by Dr. Leidy, is about four inches long, and has a conical bowl, bent at an obtuse angle from a thick stem and ornamented with bands and triangles of points. A few rude arrow heads and many small chips of yellow and red jasper were found among the heaps. In one of the piles portions of a human skeleton were discovered, of which Dr. L. exhibited fragments of the skull, jaws, and a humerus.

Dr. L. observed that, notwithstanding the interest of this North American Indian “Kjökkenmödding,” or kitchen refuse heap, he had but an hour to examine it.

The part of Cape Henlopen on which the accumulations are situated is composed of loose white sand with few pebbles or shells, and is remarkably barren. Oysters and clams are not now found living within some miles of the shell heaps. The Captain of the steamboat, who lived at Lewes, stated that the heaps were known to the neighboring people under the name of Indian heaps.

1865.]